Opening Statement of the Honorable Joe Pitts
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on "Examining Public Health Legislation to Help Local Communities"
November 20, 2013

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today's legislative hearing examines seven important, bipartisan public health bills aimed at improving the health of our families and communities. They are:

• H.R. 1098 – the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2013, introduced by Rep. Bill Pascrell, which reauthorizes programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce the incidence of traumatic brain injury (TBI), and TBI surveillance systems and registries.

• H.R. 1281 – the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2013, introduced by Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, which reauthorizes federal programs that provide assistance to states to improve and expand their newborn screening programs.

• H.R. 610 – a bill to provide for the establishment of the Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee, introduced by Rep. Chris Smith to ensure interagency coordination and communication on these diseases.

• H.R. 669 – the Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act, introduced by Ranking Member Pallone, which provides for grants to help improve the understanding of sudden unexpected death.

• H.R. 2703 – the Family Health Care Accessibility Act of 2013, introduced by Rep. Tim Murphy, which would provide Federal Torts Claim Act protection for health care professionals who volunteer their time at community health centers.

• H.R. __, the Poison Control Centers Reauthorization, will be introduced by Rep. Lee Terry, and will reauthorize important activities related to poison control centers.

• And H.R. __, National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) Reauthorization Act, will be introduced by Rep. Ed Whitfield, will reauthorize the NASPER program to support State prescription drug monitoring programs.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses, and I'd like to yield time to some of the sponsors of these bills.

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